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POLICY ISSUES: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

Note by the Executive Director

Introduction

1. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), a subsidiary organ of the legislative bodies of the organizations within the United Nations system (see General Assembly resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976), was set up to enhance the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. According to its statute, JIU is to ensure, through evaluation, investigation and inspection, that activities undertaken by United Nations organizations are implemented in the most economical manner and that optimum use is made of resources available for the activities. The 11 JIU inspectors are mandated to inspect and evaluate the activities of participating organizations and make recommendations aimed at improving management and achieving greater coordination among United Nations organizations. JIU submits an annual report to the General Assembly, which is circulated in all six official United Nations languages.

2. On 11 November 1994, UNEP received two annual reports on the main activities of JIU during the periods 1992/93 and 1993/94, with an invitation to the Executive Director to distribute the documents to the Governing Council. However, the Governing Council, by its decision 16/5 of 31 May 1991, requested the Executive Director "to discontinue, as far as possible, the practice of reissuing documents originating from other United Nations bodies but of relevance to the Governing Council and, instead, to issue only short notes indicating the subject-matter and official symbols of the documents in question, making it clear that these documents will not be circulated by the Secretariat". Accordingly, the documents are summarized for the Governing Council in the present note.

* UNEP/GC.18/1.

A. Report of the JIU on its activities during the period 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993[-]

3. The report on the main activities of the JIU during this period includes: (a) an overview of its work programme for 1993; (b) follow-up of its reports and recommendations; (c) a report on interactions; and (d) summaries of its reports and notes. Of primary importance to UNEP and its Governing Council are the summaries of JIU reports contained in the document and listed below, including document symbols.

(i) Decentralization of organizations within the United Nations system:

Part I. Deconcentration and managerial processes (JIU/REP/92/6);

(ii) Field representation of United Nations system organizations: a more unitary approach (JIU/REP/92/8);

(iii) Working with non-governmental organizations: operational activities for development of the United Nations system with non-governmental organizations and Governments at the grass-roots and national levels (JIU/REP/93/1);

(iv) A review of the specific development needs of small Member States and the responsiveness of the United Nations development system in meeting these needs (JIU/REP/93/94).

B. Report of the JIU on its activities during the period 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994[-]

4. The report on JIU activities during this period covers the following main issues: (a) the Unit's work programme for 1994 and its preliminary work programme for 1995 and beyond; (b) measures to enhance the Unit's performance, productivity and impact; (c) relations and cooperation with the participating organizations and other bodies within the United Nations system; and (d) a follow-up of previous reports. The reports summarized in the document, which are of relevance to the Governing Council and UNEP are listed below, including document symbols:

(i) Advancement of the status of women in the United Nations Secretariat in an era of "human resources management" and "accountability": a new beginning? (JIU/REP/94/3);

(ii) Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/94/4);

(iii) Towards a new system of performance appraisal in the United Nations Secretariat: requirements for successful implementation (JIU/REP/94/5);

(iv) Review and assessment of efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities (JIU/REP/94/6);

(v) United Nations system common premises and services in the field (JIU/REP/94/8).

[-] A/48/34.

[-] A/49/34.

5. In line with General Assembly resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976, and after carefully reviewing the original reports as summarized, the Executive Director has requested that two JIU reports, JIU/REP/93/4 and JIU/REP/94/8, be made available to the Governing Council as they directly pertain to UNEP or its governing body. JIU/REP/93/4, "A review of the specific development needs of small Member States and the responsiveness of the United Nations development system to those needs," states in its Recommendation Two that "United Nations agencies should give priority to assisting Small States to improve their capacity to monitor and assess key aspects of environmental issues." In response to that recommendation, the Executive Director has further integrated the specific concerns of small Member States into the proposed programme of work of UNEP for the biennium 1996-1997. Furthermore, in response to JIU/REP/94/8, "United Nations system common premises and services in the field," the Executive Director has, in association with the Assistant Secretary-General for UNCHS (Habitat), begun to elaborate the detailed operational structure of a common administrative and support services unit, in accordance with the directive of the Secretary-General to complete the task by 1 January 1996.